

More than one digital external assessment opportunity per annum Research 2020 Summary

NCEA Online Programme



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2020 Research Summary: More than one digital external assessment opportunity per annum

This research review was commissioned by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) in January 2020 to investigate areas of potential interest and prioritise ideas for future development and innovation trials under the NCEA Online programme.

The research team completed a general review and synthesis of key findings from research studies, including research that is either unpublished or has been published in non-commercial form. The results will help inform decisions about opportunities to provide multiple digital external assessment opportunities per annum to students in high-stakes summative assessment for issuing qualifications (credentialing).

It is intended that findings of the review will be used to inform future structures, tools and practices of summative digital assessment in the context of the National Certificate for Educational Assessment (NCEA) in Aotearoa New Zealand. This will include considering what potential exists to offer students multiple digital external assessment opportunities per annum.

The first part of the review report outlines findings from the literature review that address three global questions:

- How does the timing and type of summative assessment/assessment as a core component in the measurement and awarding of qualifications in senior secondary school, impact on sustained, deep learning?
- What is the impact on reliability and decision consistency and the validity of the interpretations made from the results of summative assessments when administered at multiple time points, including the impacts on teachers' and students' pursuit of learning?
- What are the practical, structural and measurement challenges and opportunities associated with implementing a summative 'assessment when ready' process?

The second part of the report consists of a discussion paper which analyses potential benefits and challenges for the New Zealand context of offering some externally assessed assessments (examinations or other forms) at mid-year rather than at year end, focussing on the digital mode.

For more information read the full [report](#) from the University of Waikato.